

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1.-15. (Cancelled).

16.(currently amended): An apparatus comprising:

a pointer processing section for processing a pointer contained in a transmission frame including one or more ~~channel frames~~ channel data; and

a frame identification section performing monitoring a change in a pointer processing result of said pointer processing section for each of the ~~channel frames~~ channel data to identify a frame size of said transmission frame based on a monitored pointer processing result.

17.(previously presented): An apparatus comprising:

a pointer processing section for processing a pointer contained in a transmission frame; and

a frame identification section for identifying a frame size of said transmission frame based on pointer processing result of said pointer processing section,

wherein said pointer processing section is composed to perform serially said pointer processing according to a rate based on a transmission rate of said transmission frame.

18.(previously presented): An apparatus comprising:

a pointer processing section for processing a pointer contained in a transmission frame; and

a frame identification section for identifying a frame size of said transmission frame based on pointer processing result of said pointer processing section,

wherein said frame identification section is composed to perform serially said identification processing according to a rate based on a transmission rate of said transmission frame.

19.(original): An apparatus comprising:

a pointer processing section for processing a pointer contained in said transmission frame; and

a frame identification section for identifying a frame composition of said transmission frame based on pointer processing result of said pointer processing section

wherein said pointer processing section comprises:

a pointer detection section for detecting a pointer value contained in a pointer byte of said transmission frame; and

a concatenation detection section for detecting that said transmission frame is in concatenation state when respective detection results of said pointer detecting section satisfy a given condition.

20.(original): An apparatus according to claim 19:

wherein said concatenation detection section is composed to detect a state where an NDF-bit indicates an NDF enable, an SS-bit indicates a normal value and said pointer value indicates an NDF enable, an SS-bit indicates a normal value and said pointer value indicates all "1" as said given condition.